The expenditure status upto 16th January 2008 for development of the above systems (in rupees) is as under:

Prithvi	—	298.95 Cr
Trishul	—	282.68 Cr
Akash	—	516.86 Cr
Nag	—	212.27 Cr
Agni	—	74.34 Cr (demonstrator only).

(d) Yes, Sir. There have been some offer for joint collaboration/cooperation in the field of development of missile system from various countries. One joint development project already exist for Long Range-Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) with Israeli Aerospace Industry (IAI), Israel.

(e) Defence scientists are involved in the design, development, test & evaluation and productionisation of missile and its sub-systems in collaborative mode.

Lack of scientists in DRDO

130. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is not lack of funds, but lack of scientists in DRDO to conduct research on strategic projects which is the main reason behind DRDO's time overrun of various projects which are of importance to India's security;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the lab-scientist ratio is also too less in DRDO;

(c) whether it is a fact that out of the total allocated Budget of Rs. 6,336 crores for 2007-98 to DRDO, it could spend only Rs. 2,200 crores; and

(d) if so, how the Ministry is planning to address the exodus of scientists from DRDO and recruit more and more scientists with lucrative pay packages and other facilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) There is neither lack of funds nor shortage of scientists in DRDO to conduct research on strategic projects. Time overrun of various projects is mainly due to the following reasons;

- Technical complexities.
- Technological embargo/sanctions and various control regimes.
- Non-availability of infra structure within the country.
- Extended and long lasting user trials.
- Revision of systems specifications during development phase.

(b) No, Sir. There is no shortage of scientists at any level.

(c) No, Sir. Budget allocations and expenditure status in respect of DRDO for Financial Year 2007-2008 are as under:

Budget Estimate (BE)	Rs. 5887.22 Cr
Revised Estimate (RE)	Rs. 5896.81 Cr
Expenditure (Net)	Rs. 4104.40 Cr (upto January 2008)

(d) There is no serious exodus of scientists from DRDO. The present level of attrition is about 18% or so, similar to other Research & Development institutions including in IT sector. The Problem of attrition of young scientists has been addressed by making regular recruitment on annual basis through Campus interviews, Scientist Entry Test (SET), Aeronautical Research Development Board (ARDB) & Registration of Students with Scholastic Aptitude (ROSSA).

DRDO has also proposed a better pay package to Sixth Pay Commission.

Premature retirement by officers of defence services

131. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many officers in defence services are leaving the forces for better opportunity in the corporate sector;

(b) what is the present number of shortage of officers in defence services and how many have applied for premature retirement since last five years;

(c) what are the major difficulties the officers are facing, while serving in armed forces; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken so that officers in defence service do not opt for premature retirement from the service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There is no large departure of officers from the defence services. The information about service-wise shortage of officers cannot be disclosed in the interest of national security.

The force-wise details of officers who have applied for premature retirement in last five years are as under:—

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force
2003	387	116	224
2004	414	119	246
2005	501	176	292
2006	752	259	220
2007	1130	284	287

The improvement in job profile of the defence officers is a continuous process keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.